

Get the Facts: Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)

What is 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019 nCoV)?

2019 Novel Coronavirus, or 2019-nCoV, is a **new** respiratory virus identified as the cause of an outbreak in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China. 2019-nCoV has resulted in thousands of confirmed cases in China, including cases outside Wuhan City, with additional cases being identified in a growing number of other countries. The first case in the United States was announced on January 21, 2020. The latest situation summary updates, including the number of cases identified in the United States, are available on CDC's web page [2019 Novel Coronavirus, Wuhan, China](#).

What are the symptoms of 2019 nCoV?

People who get sick with 2019 nCoV develop mild to severe respiratory illness with symptoms including fever, cough, shortness of breath, pneumonia, and potentially respiratory distress. There are many types of illnesses that can cause these types of respiratory symptoms. Individuals who have these symptoms and have traveled to Wuhan, China or have had close contact with someone with 2019 nCoV should be medically evaluated. CDC believes at this time that symptoms of 2019-nCoV may appear in as few as 2 days or as long as 14 days after exposure.

How does the virus spread?

Although this virus likely emerged from an animal source, evidence now suggests it spreads from person-to-person. It's important to note that person-to-person spread can happen on a continuum. Some viruses are highly contagious (like measles), while other viruses are less so. It's not clear yet how easily 2019-nCoV spreads from person-to-person. In general, coronaviruses spread through:

- Coughing or sneezing
- Close personal contact, such as touching or shaking hands
- Touching a surface with virus, then touching your mouth, nose or eyes before washing your hands

What is the treatment for 2019-nCoV?

There is no current antiviral treatment recommended for 2019-nCoV infection though studies are underway. People sick with 2019-nCoV should receive supportive care to help relieve symptoms.

Is there a vaccine?

There is currently no vaccine to prevent 2019-nCoV infection.

How can I protect myself?

As with any respiratory virus, you can protect yourself and others by taking everyday preventative actions:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

What can travelers do to protect themselves and others?

The Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) recommends avoiding non-essential travel **to Hubei Province, China, including Wuhan**. If you must travel:

- Avoid contact with sick people.
- Avoid animals (alive or dead), animal markets, and products that come from animals (such as uncooked meat).
- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.

The latest travel updates are available on CDC's web page [Traveler's Health](#).

If you traveled to Hubei Province, China, including Wuhan, in the last 14 days and feel sick with fever, cough, or difficulty breathing, you should:

- Stay home. Except for seeking medical care, avoid contact with others.
- Seek medical care right away. Before you go to a doctor's office or emergency room, call ahead and tell them about your recent travel and your symptoms.
- Not travel while sick.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when coughing or sneezing.
- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.

For any further questions, comments, or concerns, please call 311 or visit www.chicago.gov/2019-nCoV.